

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 4, 2008. Claims 1 to 3, 7 to 13, 15 and 17 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1 and 7 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,267,517 (Noda) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,859,711 (Barry). Claims 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Noda in view of Barry, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,373,588 (Fischer). Claims 3, 12, 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Noda in view of Barry, and in further view of alleged well known prior art (official notice). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns creating a single print job for a banner by combining a plurality of print jobs. To do so, an apparatus in accordance with the present invention generates new banner print data, which is different from each banner print data included in a plurality of print jobs, and newly generates a single print job including combination print data and the new banner print data, where the combination print data is generated by combining each print data included in a plurality of print jobs.

Turning to specific claim language, Claim 1 is directed to a method of controlling printing in an information processing apparatus communicating with a printing apparatus. The apparatus includes a first generation step of generating combination print data by combining each print data included in a plurality of print jobs before outputting the plurality of print jobs to the printing apparatus, the plurality of print jobs including print

data for printing pages of a document and banner print data for banner printing, respectively; a second generation step of generating new banner print data for the combination print data generated in the first generation step; and a third generation step of generating a print job including the combination print data generated in the first generation step and the new banner print data generated in the second generation step, such that the new banner print data is printed on a sheet and each banner print data included in the plurality of prints jobs is not printed on the sheet.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, namely Noda and Barry, considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the method of Claim 1. In particular, the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of generating combination print data by combining each print data included in a plurality of print jobs before outputting the plurality of print jobs to the printing apparatus, the plurality of print jobs including print data for printing pages of a document and banner print data for banner printing, respectively, generating new banner print data for the combination print data generated in the first generation step and a third generation step of generating a print job including the combination print data generated in the first generation step and the new banner print data generated in the second generation step, such that the new banner print data is printed on a sheet and each banner print data included in the plurality of prints jobs is not printed on the sheet.

Therefore, in an information processing apparatus implementing the method of Claim 1, a printout, as shown in Fig. 10, can be obtained even if a finish process such as stapling is executed or even if processing for a layout change such as two pages per sheet is

executed. This is because the banner print data included in a plurality of print jobs before combining is not printed when the plurality of print jobs including the banner print data are combined.

In contrast to the present invention, Noda discloses printing a separating page using present user information of a received print job in a case where the present user information is different from previous user information of another received print job, or the present user information is the same as the previous user information of another received print job and a time passed from the previous printing is longer than a designated time. In Noda, whether or not to output a separating page is determined based on user information in a received print job after the printer receives a print job from an information processing apparatus. Therefore, Noda does not disclose combining a plurality of print jobs before outputting the plurality of print jobs to a printing apparatus. Instead, it is the printer, by failing to print a separator page between print jobs, that creates a “combined” print job.

Furthermore, Barry discloses outputting a separator page for output print jobs. In Barry, the printout is output based on a received print job and the separator page is output as part of the printout. That is, Barry discloses outputting a new separator page for each printout. However, Barry does not disclose or suggest generating a print job such that the new banner print data is printed on a sheet and the banner print data included in the plurality of print jobs is not printed on the sheet, as featured in Claim 1.

In light of the deficiencies of Noda and Barry as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 7 is directed to an apparatus substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 7 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

The Director is authorized to charge the \$130 extension fee to Deposit Account No. 50-3939. The Director is further authorized to charge any deficiency therein or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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